AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 11 and 12 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claim 9 as follows:

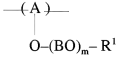
1. (Previously Presented) A block polymer comprising a polyalkenyl ether main chain comprising:

a first block segment having hydrophobicity;

a second block segment having an upper limit hydration temperature exceeding 70°C; and

a third block segment having an ionic property,

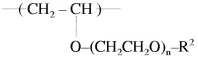
wherein the second block segment is represented by the following general formula (1):



(1)

wherein A represents an unsubstituted or substituted polyvinyl group; B represents an unsubstituted or substituted linear or branched alkylene group with 1 to 15 carbon atoms; m represents an integer from 2 to 50; B is optionally different; and R^1 represents a hydrogen atom, $-CH_3$ or $-C_2H_5$, and

wherein the block segment represented by general formula (1) is represented by the following general formula (2):



(2)

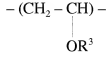
wherein n represents an integer from 2 to 50; and R^2 represents a hydrogen atom, $-CH_3$ or $-C_2H_5$.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) A block polymer according to claim 1, wherein the third block segment is a block segment showing anionic property.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) A block polymer according to claim 1, wherein the first block segment is represented by general formula (3):



(3)

wherein R^3 is selected from the group consisting of a linear, branched or cyclic alkyl group with 1 to 18 carbon atoms, Ph, Pyr, Ph–Ph, Ph–Pyr, $-(CH(R^4)-CHR^5)-O)_p-R^6$ and $-(CH_2)_k-(O)_l-R^6$ in which a hydrogen atom in the aromatic ring is optionally substituted by a linear or branched alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbon atoms and a carbon atom in the aromatic ring is optionally substituted by a nitrogen atom; p represents an integer from 1 to 18; k represents an integer from 1 to 36; l

represents 0 or 1; R^4 and R^5 each independently represent a hydrogen atom or CH_3; R^6 represents a linear, branched or cyclic alkyl group with 1 to 18 carbon atoms, Ph, Pyr, Ph–Ph, Ph–Pyr, –CHO, –CO–CH=CH_2, –CO–C(CH_3)=CH_2 or –CH_2COOR^7 in which a hydrogen atom in the aromatic ring is optionally substituted by a linear or branched alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbon atoms, F, Cl or Br, and a carbon atom in the aromatic ring is optionally substituted by a nitrogen atom; and R^7 represents an alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

6. (Previously Presented) A block polymer according to claim 1, wherein the first block segment comprises a single repeating unit structure.

7. (Original) A polymer-containing composition comprising the block polymer according to claim 1, a solvent or a dispersing medium, and a functional substance.

8. (Original) A polymer-containing composition according to claim 7, wherein the functional substance is enclosed in the block polymer.

9. (Currently Amended) An ink composition comprising the polymer-containing composition according to claim 7, wherein the functional substance is a colorant.

10. (Original) A liquid application method comprising the steps of: preparing the polymer-containing composition according to claim 7; and applying the polymer-containing composition to a medium.

11 - 12. (Cancelled)